

# Correctional Employees Vital To Criminal Justice Success

## Media Contact:

Department of Correction

Java Ahmed

(317) 234-1693

E-mail: [jahmed@doc.in.gov](mailto:jahmed@doc.in.gov)

## Letters to the Editor

The Indianapolis Star

P.O. Box 145

Indianapolis, IN 46206-0145

Dear Editor:

As Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction I was pleased to read Dana Knight's story entitled "5 Jobs That Protect", which highlights, among other public safety careers, the correctional employee, which she describes as having "one of the toughest jobs in law enforcement." I could not agree more, and am happy to see staff getting the recognition they deserve.

The simple fact is that correctional employees are essential to a successful criminal justice system. Everyday they suit up and contend with people convicted of serious crimes, and courageously safeguard Indiana communities by preventing criminals from returning to the community to threaten public safety. In addition to this, correctional staff must also control offender behavior in prison, and protect the inmates from each other, protect their fellow staff, and even protect offenders from themselves. This must be accomplished while providing programs and treatment to these same offenders to try and curb their criminal mindset so they can return to society as law-abiding citizens, which is another form of public protection.

It is important to mention that this past Session of Indiana's General Assembly, Governor Daniels and I worked with Senators Mike Young and Anita Bowser to introduce legislation, which the Members of the General Assembly unanimously supported, and which recognizes the hazardous duty service performed by correctional employees that protect the State's law-abiding majority from its offending members. This legislation paves the way for improved benefits and other compensatory enhancements, and promotes a higher level of professionalism to this deserving group of public servants.

Again, my sincere appreciation goes to your reporter, Dana Knight, and your editorial staff for recognizing the important public safety responsibilities carried out each day by Indiana's state and local correctional employees.

J. David Donahue  
Commissioner IDOC

[Click here to read Commissioner Donahue's letter as published in the Indianapolis Star](#)

### **About The Department of Correction**

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.